Governments and efforts are being made to better monitor and curb such financial flows.

Pendency of Extradition Cases

5035. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of extradition cases which are pending at present and how much expenditure Government have incurred on the engagement of advocates during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a separate panel of advocates for such court cases and if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Nine extradition requests from various foreign countries are pending at present with the judicial authorities in India. Expenditure incurred on engagement of advocates was Rs. 25,300 in 2001-2002 and Rs. 1,60,900 in 2002-2003.

(b) An in principle decision has been taken to set up a separate panel of advocates. The matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Assistance to Iraq

5036. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to supply about two million tonnes of wheat to Baghdad under the World Food Programme and grant Rs.100 crore to the UN's restarted 'Oil for Food' Programme for providing humanitarian relief to the war-ravaged people of Iraq;

(b) if so, whether Government are holding consultations with Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Qatar and Turkey on this issue;

(c) if so, their response thereto; and

(d) to what extent wheat and aid has already been provided to Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) In response to the UN emergency appeal, India has announced a contribution of $20 million in cash and kind, including 50,000 MT of wheat. The UN has also included 30 Indian pipeline contracts under its list of 327 priority contracts under the Oil for Food Programme.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India is in touch with the relevant UN agencies for the early delivery of the aid to Iraq.

Pak Prime Minister's Statement

5037. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the unprovoked statement by the Pakistani Prime Minister in the first week of April, 2003, that Islamabad would retaliate with "full force" if New Delhi carried out any pre-emptive strike' adding that "the people of Pakistan and the armed forces will give a befitting reply";

(b) whether this statement in the back-drop of the Nadimarg massacre of 25 Kashmiri Pandits and the reported concentration of militants and the mercenaries along the J&K borders along the Line of Control have infused a fresh thinking by Government on the question of dealing with cross border terrorism; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have been continuously taking appropriate and effective steps, both on the ground and at diplomatic level, in order to curb the menace of cross border terrorism and infiltration into India.

Prime Minister during his visit to Srinagar from April 18 to April 19, 2003 has once again extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan and at the same time he reiterated in Srinagar and the two houses of the Parliament (April 23 & 24, 2003) that stopping cross border infiltration and destruction of terrorist infrastructure was essential for opening the doors for talks.

In his statement in Parliament on 2nd May 2003, Prime Minister said that a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue with Pakistan necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure by Pakistan.

Government is firmly committed to fight the menace of cross border infiltration and terrorism directed against the country till it is decisively eliminated.